

13 November 2018

Members of the Board,
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for California Tropical Forest Standard

Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board,

Motu is an independent non-profit economic research institute based in Wellington, New Zealand. With some of my colleagues I have worked extensively on the use of emissions trading to avoid deforestation and encourage and facilitate reforestation within New Zealand. I have also worked since the 1990s on the design, simulation and evaluation of efforts to reduce deforestation and encourage reforestation in developing countries and in particular Latin America. In New Zealand I am currently working actively with our local indigenous community (Māori) in Tairāwhiti to understand how to better design carbon contracting relationships to facilitate their engagement with our own ETS and ensure that they gain the co-benefits that are consonant with their aspirations. <https://motu.nz/our-work/environment-and-resources/emission-mitigation/waro-project/>

Internationally I am engaged in a project involving researchers, climate delegates and private sector participants across five countries that aims to create a credible mechanism for the transfer of mitigation outcomes, including those from forest activities. Within Colombia I have worked with a local and international team to explore how forest protection and reforestation activities can be included in a Colombian ETS. I did not send comments during the public consult period but still wanted to take the opportunity to share my perspective with the Board.

I support California's tropical forest standard and its adoption by the Air Resources Board. California has been a global leader to address climate change and this Standard is a critical and urgently needed signal that can increase the impact of your state's policy to extend beyond its borders. The need is urgent to address climate change, and halting tropical forest deforestation is one of the most significant steps the world can take to be on a safer path. California's standard will be a robust example on how to set incentives for large-scale forest programs that address deforestation with environmental and social integrity.

Sincerely,



Suzi Kerr

Senior Fellow

